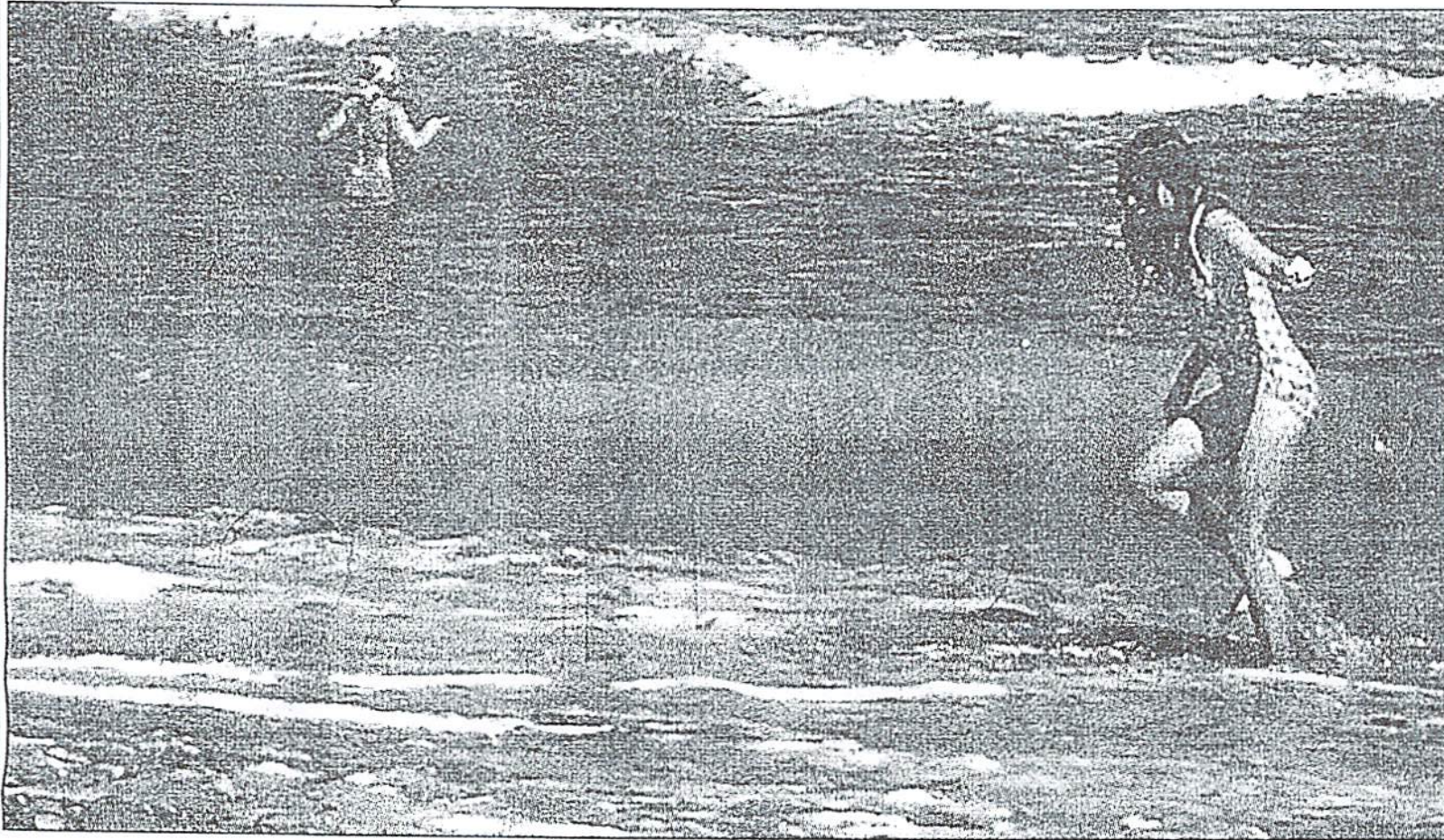


SEPTEMBER 1, 2006

FREE

Last days in the summer sand



STAFF PHOTO/ANDRIA FARRELL

Chilly weather makes for chilly waters in Duxbury Bay as a few beach-goers attempt to swim on the last few days of summer.

This story concludes our summer series about life on Duxbury Bay.

By ANDRIA FARRELL
MPG Newspapers

The public parking at the beginning of Powder Point bridge is barely full, the resident parking on the other side has a few cars filling spaces, and seagulls outnumber people. This is what the end of the summer looks like at Duxbury Beach.

As the final days of summer approach, only the most dedicated beach-goers hit the sand. Many surrounding schools have already started, but Duxbury allows for a few additional days of enjoyment. With lifeguards still on duty, kiddies wade in the chilly water.

The Dolido family, on vacation from New York, packed their lunches for the beach on the first sunny day of their vacation in Duxbury. Fifth-grader Alexandra is excited to start school next week, but not as excited as she is to test the cool New England waters. Her brother, second-grader Addison, may not share his sister's enthusiasm for school, but he is more than happy to fill his final days of summer vacation splashing in the waves.

As the two explore the waters of Duxbury Bay, mom keeps her long sleeves on, watching them from the water's edge. The Dolidos are spending their last summer getaway before school with friends in Duxbury. The family is happy to finally see the sun and hopes Ernesto stays away.

Hurricane Ernesto has been traveling up the coast and is forecasted to wash out the Labor Day weekend in New England. With a chance the rain may not fall until Sunday, people are keeping their fingers crossed, hoping to save at least one day out of the long weekend.

"Wait and watch and hope for the best," Harbormaster Don Beers said.

Beers says he always looks forward to Labor Day weekend as the last summer weekend he and his crew get to enjoy. He says this holiday is a relaxed one for Duxbury.

"It is not like Fourth of July, not like Memorial Day – people are not running to the shore; they are walking," Beers said. "After a long, hot summer, the race is over."

The race certainly was over Wednesday. Even the dutiful lifeguards looked like they had packed the season away. They sat nestled below the guard tower in beach

"It is not like Fourth of July, not like Memorial Day – people are not running to the shore; they are walking. After a long, hot summer, the race is over."

**– Don Beers,
Harbormaster**

chairs under layers of sweats with beach towels draped over their legs. They peered across the water through their sunglasses.

New York University senior and Duxbury native Sam Pipp has been working summers at Duxbury Beach for five or six years now. His colleague, Duxbury High senior Angela Auda, said the beach season always seems to have a slow start and a quiet finish. She says however, that next to Fourth of July weekend, Labor Day is the busiest time of the year. Especially Labor Day itself. With the iffy forecast ahead, they are unsure whether their summer beach gig will be cut short by weather.

The hot, humid weather of mid-July made for the busiest time of the year, especially Saturdays, Auda said. She attributes the current slowdown to the weather, noting that it is usually a little busier this time of

year.

"I am sad to see summer go," beach-goer Doris Kim said. "I feel ripped off. August has not been so good."

Kim and her two girls, Madelyn and Danielle Koelbel, spend most of their summer at the beach. They were trying to catch the last few days of summer there with friends, hoping to to enjoy at least a few more days. The rainy weather has clearly caused end-of-the-summer beach blues for some.

At the beach end of the bridge sand stretches for miles, with just a trickle of people. Piping plovers, sand pipers and seagulls have taken back their home, scouring the water's edge for late-summer meals. Rocks have begun to take over the sandy surfaces and puddles have invaded the parking lot. Even the ice cream vendor could not be seen.